

SPANISH FORK

City on the Rio De Aguas Calientes



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The Indian farm west of Spanish Fork had not proved to be as successful as had been hoped, although it was still in operation and some crops were raised. There were several factors which probably contributed to its gradual deterioration. Congress failed to appropriate adequate funds for the farm; there were frequent changes in personnel and some irregularities in administration (there were charges of embezzlement levied against some officials); and natural disasters such as drouth and grasshoppers. But part of the blame must be placed upon the Indians themselves. White workers complained that the Indians were uncooperative and lazy. Whatever the reasons, by 1860 the situation had become critical. The Indians were discouraged and expressed a lack of confidence in the government's ability to provide for them, and there was little they could do to provide for themselves in the old traditional way.

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1861

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If the men of Spanish Fork did not volunteer their services in the Civil War, it did not mean that they felt no patriotism or love of country. They wished to celebrate the Fourth of July in 1861 in a fitting fashion, so Thomas Robertson and Robert McKell volunteered to make a cannon with which to salute the day. "The citizens gathered up some of General Albert Sidney Johnston's wagon tires and brought them to the smiths, who took four pieces, eighteen inches long, laid them lengthways and welded them together, after which they welded bands around them, making one solid piece of iron." Allen Adamson turned the iron on a lathe, making it smooth on the outside and bored with an inch and a half bore fourteen inches deep. The citizens were aroused from sleep on the morning of the Fourth of July by the firing of the cannon, which was used for quite a few years on the Fourth. Later, Robertson was allowed \$20 for making the cannon.

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The schoolhouse built on the public square two years before had also served as a social hall. In 1861 a large

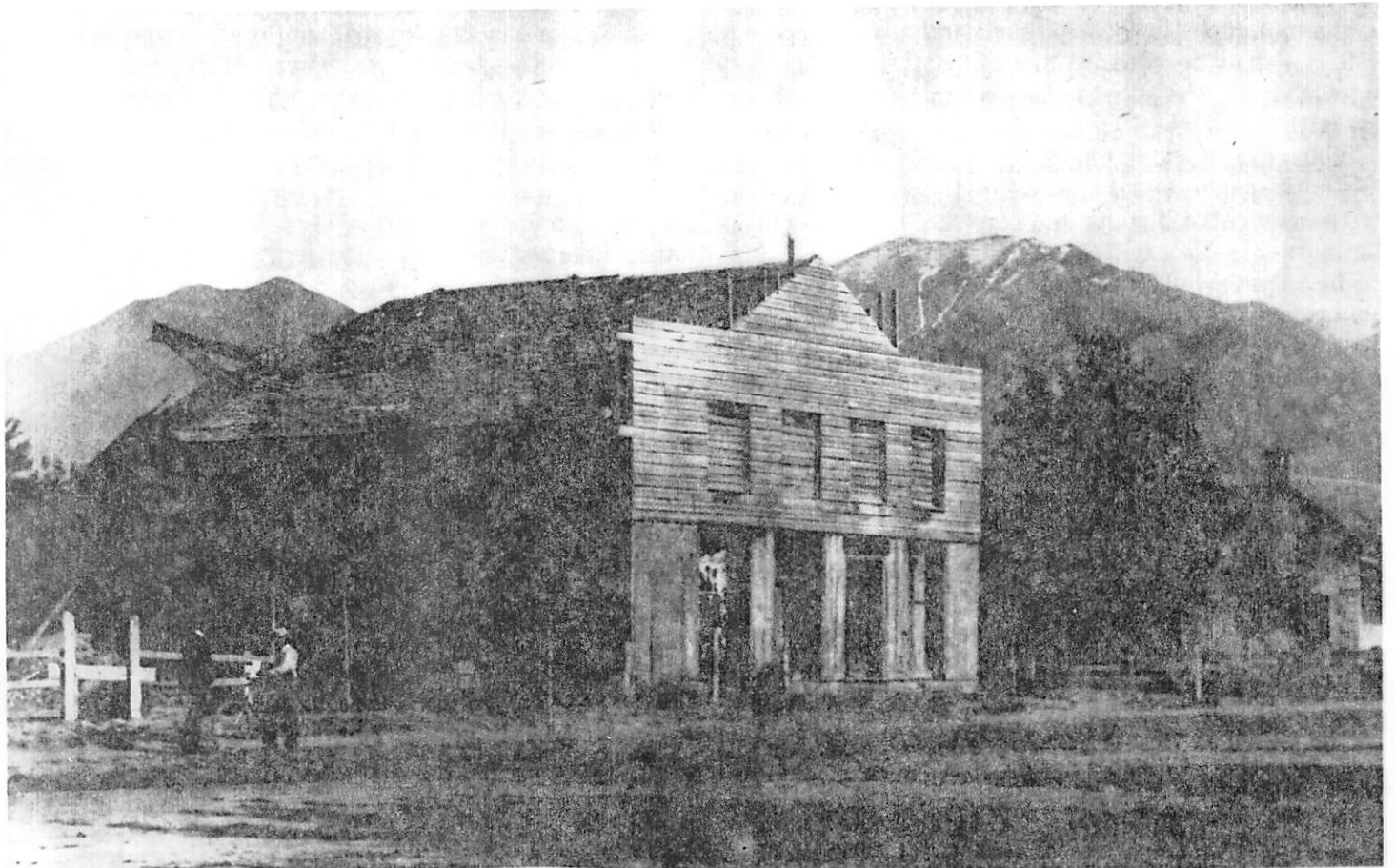
adobe building was erected on the east side of Main Street across from the square for the purpose of entertaining guests and socials. This hall was known as the Social Hall (later called Morrison's Hall), and was to be the center of activities for more than thirty years. The building was built by a company called the Spanish Fork Building Society. In April the following were appointed to act as a committee to draw up a constitution for the group: Silas Hillman, George D. Snell, and Thomas Robertsohn.

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In the regular election on May 6 the following officials were selected: mayor, George D. Snell; aldermen were Orville M. Allen, John Murray, Sr., Adolphus Babcock, Thomas Robertson; councilors were Samuel Thompson, Levan Simmons, James L. Thompson, Joshua Hawks, Cyrus Snell, William Banks, Sr., John T. Davis, Edward Creer, and Zebedee Coltrin.

One of the early weavers of Spanish Fork was Angelisa Katrine Madsen, who came to Spanish Fork in 1861 and who made a living by weaving after her husband died in 1872. The loom she used could weave either cloth or carpets.

It was reported that Tsha-pwe-unt (White Eye) head chief of the Utes has arrived at the Indian farm from his home on the Colorado to spend the summer. Settlers complained that they would have to feed the Indians since they had no way of providing for themselves, and



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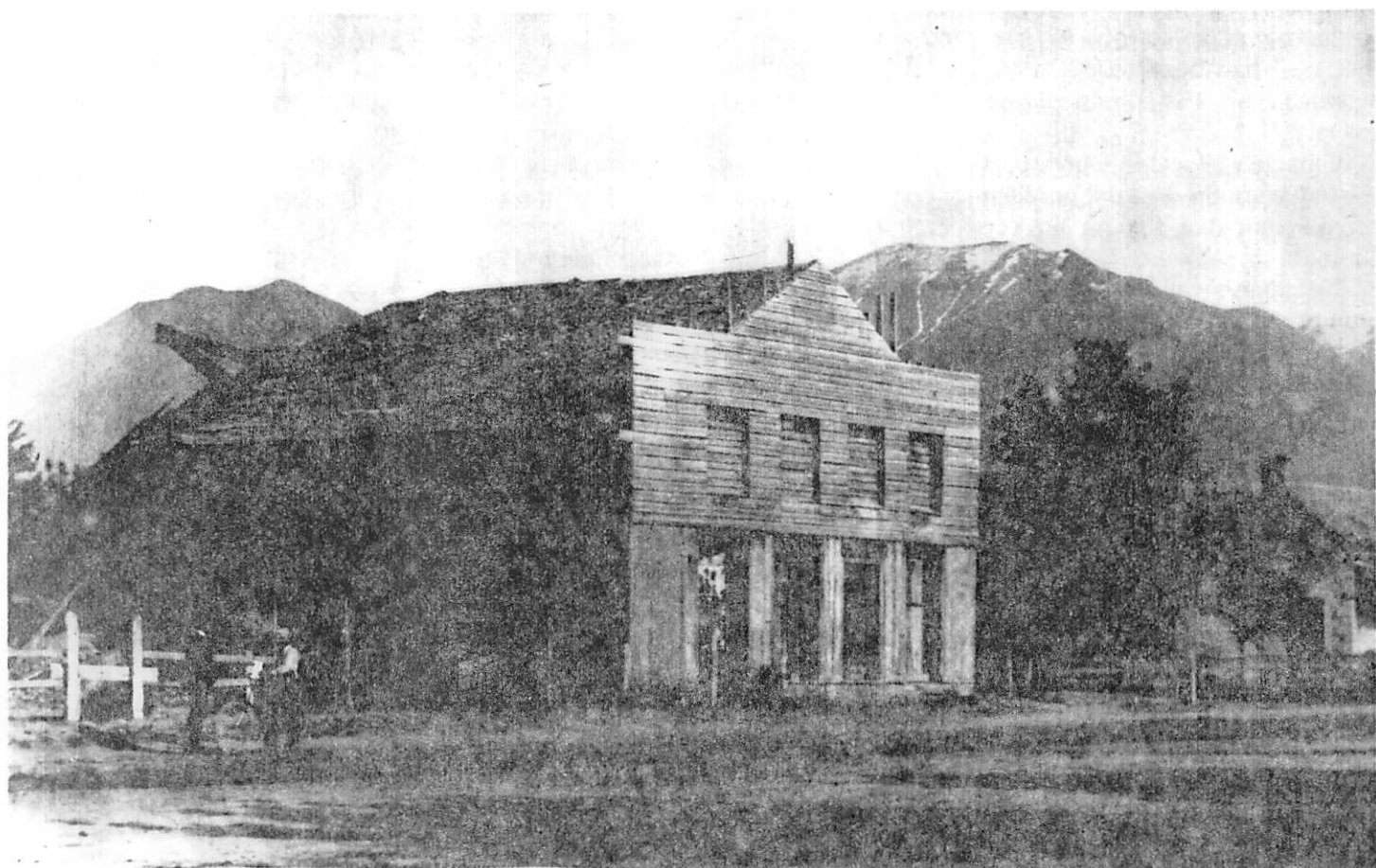
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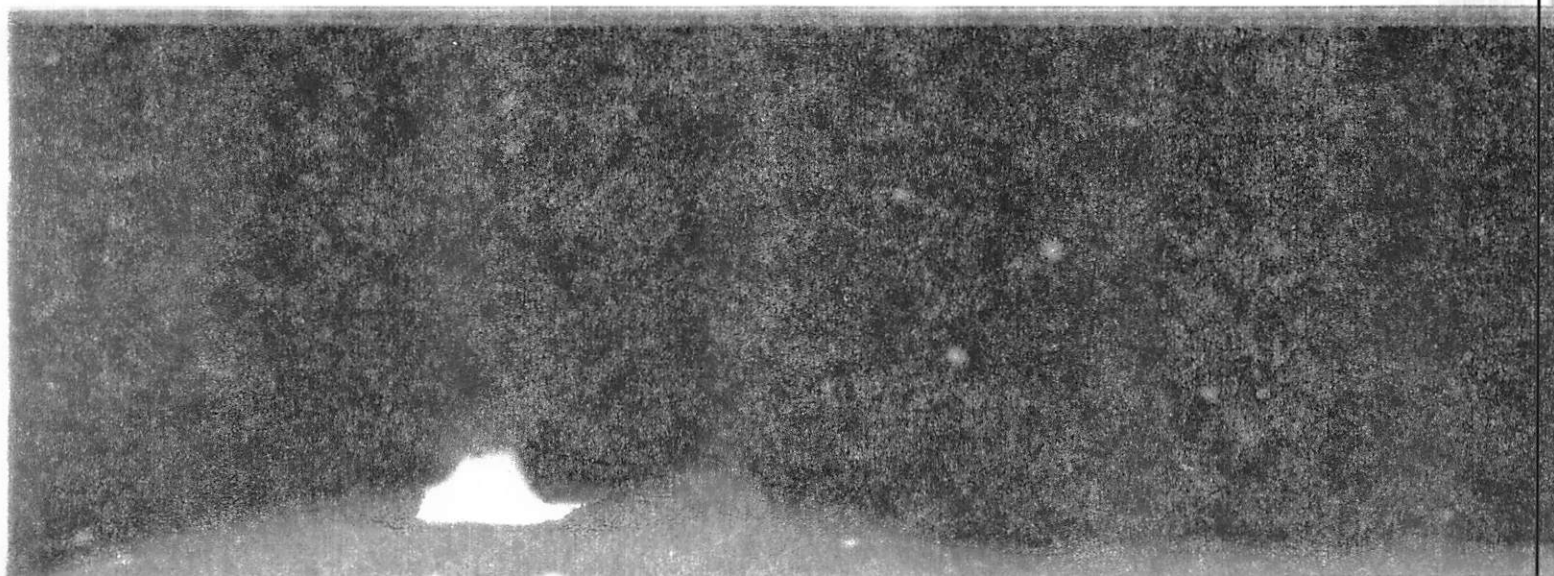
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suggested to Indian authorities that Indians from other sections of the country not be permitted to enter the valley.

An ordinance was passed creating a public square. Early in the year, the city was divided into two wards; later the division was changed to four wards.

1862

In the spring of this year the Spanish Fork River flooded over his banks, and in the river bottoms southeast of town the water reached from bluff to bluff. The bridge over the river south of town withstood the torrent, but it was completely covered with water, and the water cut deep channels in the road. There were no funds available for road repairs when the water receded so the people had to make the necessary repairs themselves. During the high water travelers to the south were ferried over the river on a "ferry of sorts." In addition to the damage done to the road and to the farm lands, one person lost his life. Alma Dimmick, 15, was drowned in the flood waters.

The scarcity of lumber and wood for fuel as well as for building was always a problem. A subscription list was circulated in Spanish Fork offering a premium to anyone finding coal within twenty miles of the city and in such a location that a good road could be built to it. The amount of \$1300 was obtained. Many with picks and shovels went to the mountains to look for coal, and a report came in that coal had been found in the first canyon south of Hobbie Creek. The subscribers were to own the rights to the coal.

William W. Rockhill reported to the Deseret News that the Indians in the area did not seem as numerous as usual, "consequence of finding no comfort from the Indian Farm."

The Spanish wall (made out of mud or adobes) or fence built from Spanish Fork to Dry Creek at Springville to keep the cattle in the foothills and out of the farmer's fields was deteriorating badly. The field committee made every effort to keep the stock out of the grain, but with the wall in such poor shape it was impossible. Silas Jones was president of the committee and David Bowen was secretary.

Spanish Fork was growing, and as a consequence more schools were needed. The city was divided into two school districts with the division line being Fourth North. This necessitated the building of a school on the north side. The new school was built on the corner of the Bowen Block on Fourth North between First and Second East. It was called the White Schoolhouse because it was whitewashed on the outside, and it was the first schoolhouse in Spanish Fork to be built with a shingle roof. Trustees of the first district were Cyrus Snell, Levan Simmons, and Thomas C. Martell; of the second district they were John A. Lewis, Adolphus Babcock, and Thomas Gay.

The citizens of Spanish Fork met on December 30 to take action in relation to the proposed convention for the adoption of a constitution and form of a state government since the Territory of Utah was planning to ask for admittance into the union. George D. Snell was elected chairman with W. W. Rockhill as secretary. A committee of six was appointed to draft resolutions "expressive of the sentiments and wishes of the people assembled in their sovereign authority." A resolution was passed to support the delegates to the state convention. On March 3 the citizens met again in the north wing of the social hall to cast their votes for the establishing of a state constitution. Three hearty cheers for the "state of Deseret" were part of the program.

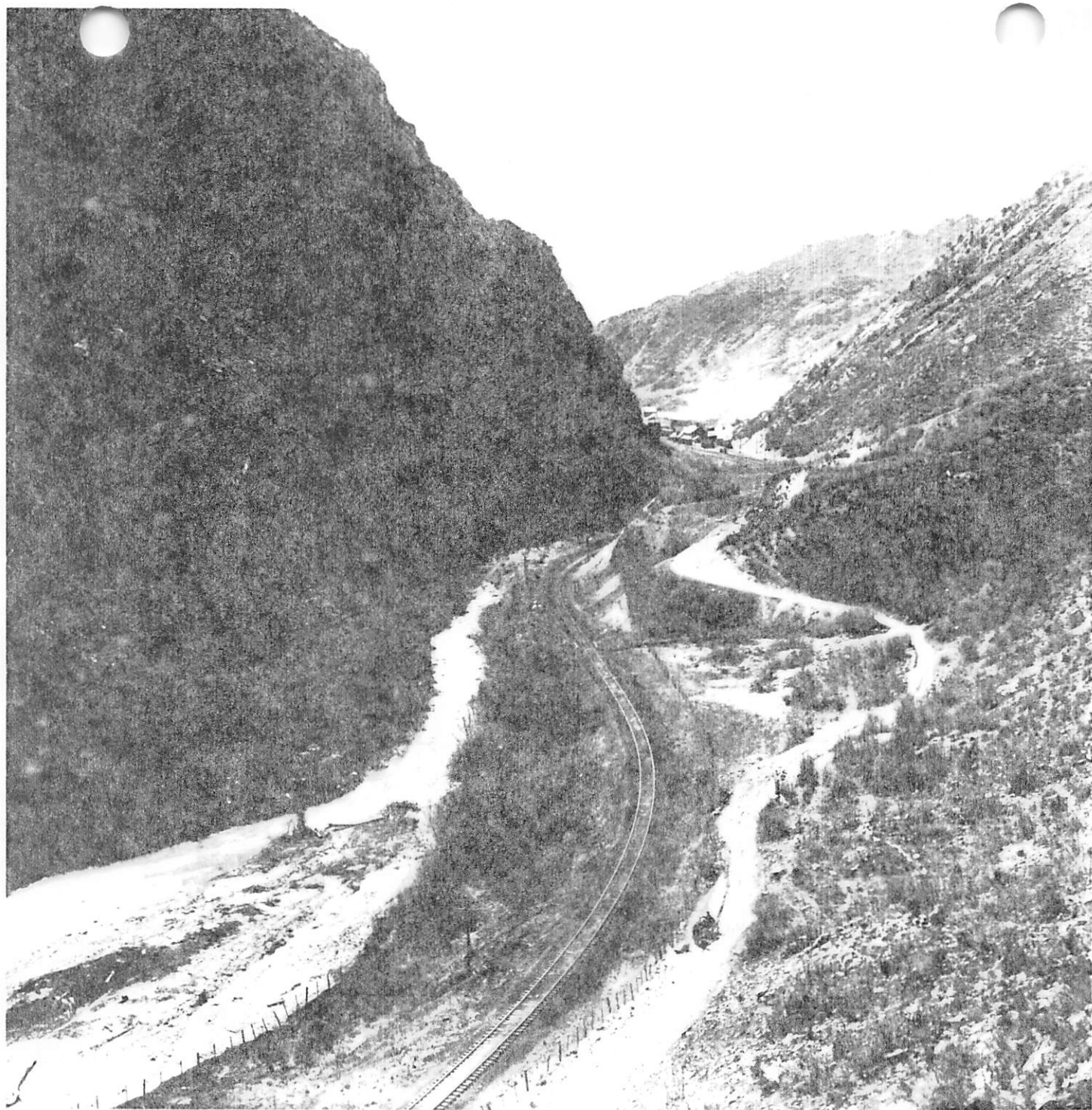
1863

Little had been done towards a permanent solution to the problems generated by Indians and whites living close together and the resulting destitution of the Indians. Although the Indian farms had proved to be failures and were practically in ruins, provisions had still not been made to move the Indians to the Uintah Basin as had been proposed in 1861 by President Lincoln, and there would be serious altercations before that move would finally be made. A forerunner of the trouble to come was a skirmish between Indians and soldiers which took place in Spanish Fork Canyon on April 16, 1863. Albert K. Thurber reported: "Night before last or early yesterday morning, the troops--two companies or more, with a howitzer--marched into Spanish Fork Canyon and came upon a body of Indians between the two bridges, one mile about the mouth of the canyon, on the south side of the river." A struggle took place in heavy rain. At first it was reported that three Indians were killed and two wounded. Thurber later amended this to four Indians killed and two wounded. Three of the soldiers were wounded, and one, Lt. Peel, died at Springville later.

A correspondent to the Deseret News reported another fight on Sunday afternoon, April 5, in which a squad of soldiers and a small band of Indians were involved near Spanish Fork. The battle lasted for two hours and two Indians were wounded. The Indians were claimed to be a small band that had always lived in the Spanish Fork area and were generally considered well-behaved and civil.

The Indians in the area were apparently on the move. About fifty warriors passed through Provo on their way to Fort Bridger. Another band had gone up Hobbie Creek Canyon and was reported stealing cattle there and on the Spanish Fork Bench. Brigadier General Aaron Johnson of the Peteetneet Military District went to Goshen to form a militia for protection against the Indians.

The fence built from Spanish Fork to Springville was also causing problems. The Springville land owners failed to keep up their portion of the wall, so it was proposed by



A view of Spanish Fork Canyon with Tistle in the background. The road was on the south side of the river instead of the north as it is

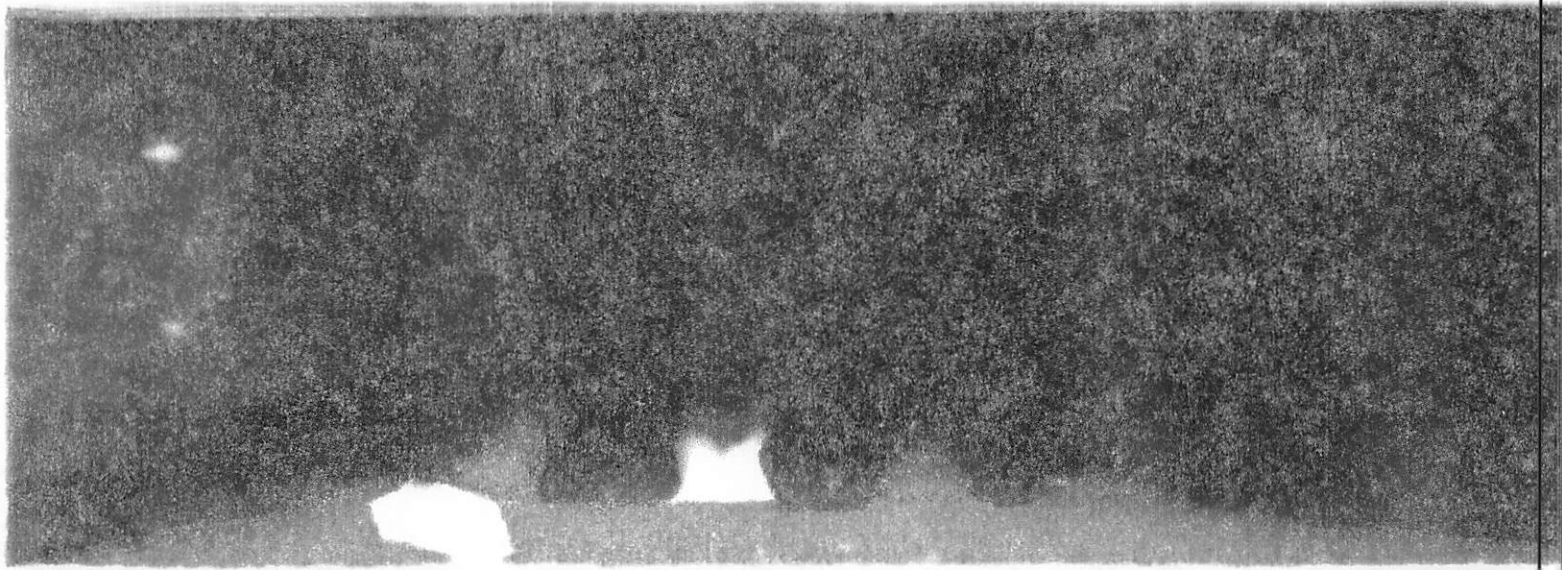
today. Photograph taken by George E. Anderson.

Picture courtesy Rell G. Francis

Summit, and there are a motel and cafe there, as well as many of the foundations of homes that have long since been moved or torn down.

To the people of Spanish Fork the railroad meant more than a means of transportation and getting their produce to market. Spanish Fork Canyon had always been a lifeline to the city, providing first water, then lumber, and with the building of the railroad and the opening of mines, employment. It was often difficult to provide for a large

family from income derived solely from the small farms, so the breadwinner often left home to seek other means of livelihood. Many went to work for the railroads or to the mines at Tintic, Pleasant Valley, Carbon and Emery, and the sawmills that provided the timber for these enterprises as well as building in the town. Like many of the Welsh, some had been miners in their native countries, but others, like the Icelanders many of whom were fishermen, had to seek a new way of making a living. During the years before



Williams, their daughter, says that the glass for the greenhouses were glass negatives from the Stahmann Photo Studio. The children helped to scrape the glasses so they could be used. Before the greenhouses were started, flowers were shipped from Provo and Salt Lake City.

The Articles of Incorporation of the Spanish Fork Mercantile Institution were amended to read: Article 1. This association shall be known by the name and style of Spanish Fork Co-operative Institution, the continuance, duration, succession and existence of which shall be for and during a period of fifty years (50) from and after the first day of July A.D. 1870."

1901

During the years around the turn of the century--the 1890's and early 1900's--Castilla Springs Resort in Spanish Fork Canyon reached the peak of its popularity. Thousands came--by horseback, buggy or wagon, but most by train--to eat their picnic lunches, swim in the health-giving waters, play baseball or dance. Some brought their luggage and stayed in the pleasant two-story red sandstone hotel with its broad front porch, but many came only for a day. The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad sponsored excursions to Castilla from the Tintic Mining District, from Spanish Fork and Springville, and even from Provo and Salt Lake City. Fifty cents would buy a ticket from Spanish Fork to Castilla and return. There was no depot at Castilla, only a sign and a long platform to accommodate passengers and their baggage. One of the most popular excursions was the "moonlight" train which left Spanish Fork early in the evening and returned later at night.

Water for the two pools--one open to the sky and the other enclosed--came from warm sulphuric springs and smelled somewhat like rotten eggs. Those who came primarily for the curative powers of the water could soak in private in large wooden tubs, but there were others who swore that the waters from the spring had greater healing properties if taken internally. Others said that the beer made on the premises for a short time by the Ph Zang Brewery was better for what ailed them than was the water. For those who cared for neither sulphur nor beer, there was cold fresh water piped from a spring high up on the mountain.

Across the river from the hotel was a baseball diamond, and competition was intense among teams around the area, so intense that sometimes a game ended in a rough and tumble that was enjoyed as much or more than the game.

Many groups held outings at Castilla. There were old folk celebrations, school classes, reunions, and even a few weddings. But whatever the occasion, everyone agreed that Castilla was a wonderful, romantic place to go, and even after its popularity had declined and the place had



The sandstone hotel at Castilla Springs Resort in Spanish Fork Canyon.

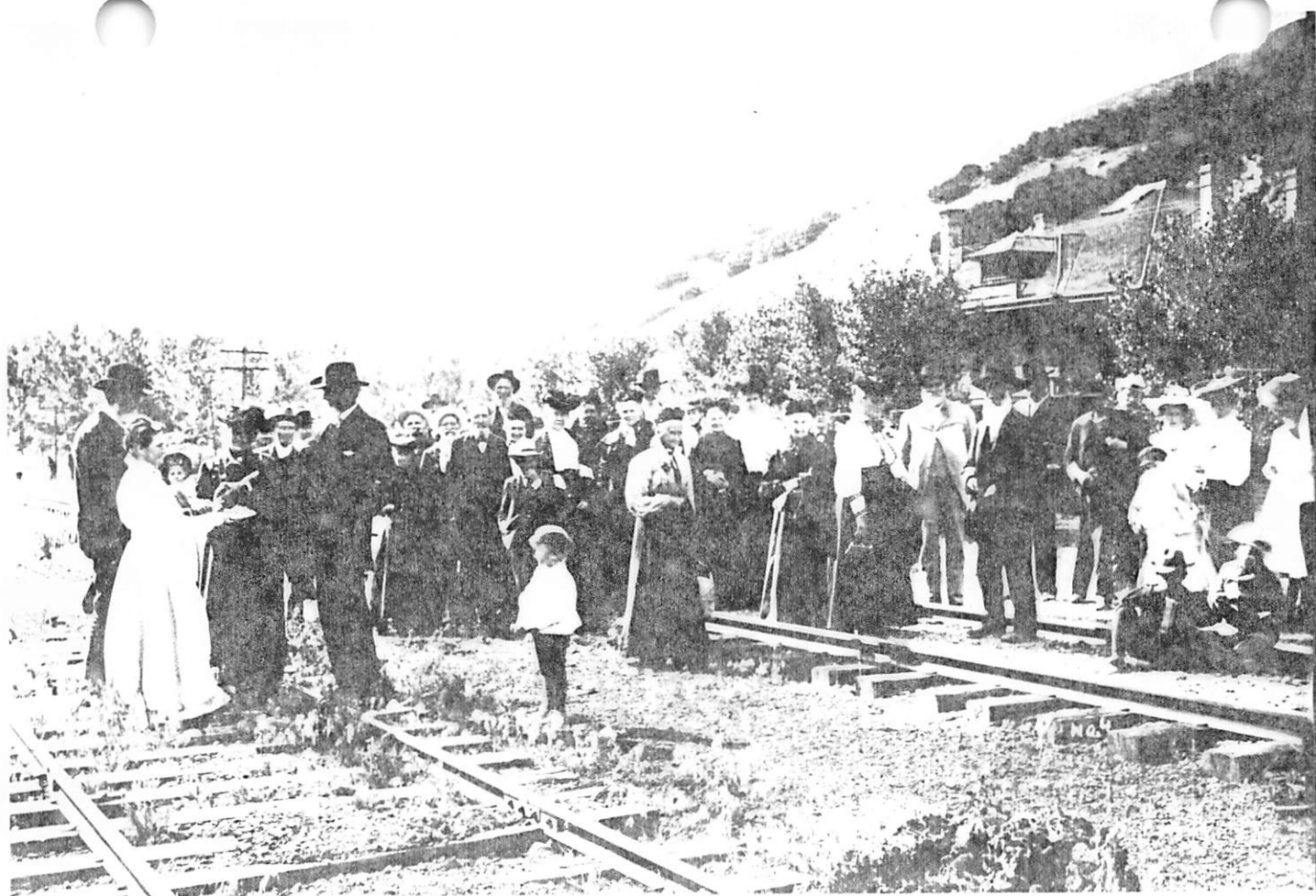
deteriorated, many had fond memories of days and evenings spent there.

Water and water problems were a constant part of the life of Spanish Fork. It was charged that the people living up the canyon made a habit of taking water out of the river illegally, and the Southeast Field was accused of taking out all the water that rightfully belonged to Spanish Fork City. The Southeast Field even threatened force if the water master carried out the rules and regulations set up by the city. The county attorney was called, but he decided to let the feud continue, perhaps "waiting for a real homicide," as a correspondent to the *Deseret News* put it. Later Spanish Fork City entered suit against the Spanish Fork Southeast Irrigation Co. and the Spanish Fork Co-op hoping to secure proper regulation of the water. Water users also asked that the watershed be protected in order to prevent excessive run-off and preserve water when it was most needed.

Good drinking water was also badly needed by the city and its citizens. The few wells about town were inadequate both in quantity and quality, and some families used water straight from irrigation ditches. Over the years several efforts had been made to improve the well on the Public Square, but the results were so poor that it was decided to do no more. It was hoped that water could be piped from some good springs at the mouth of Spanish Fork Canyon and a waterworks system installed.

On January 20 Nebo Stake was organized with Jonathan S. Page, Jr., Hyrum Lemon, and Henry Gardner being selected to serve in the presidency. On February 7 the High Council was organized by drawing lots.

Quite a number of oil wells were being drilled around the state, and there was a great deal of activity in Spanish Fork Canyon in petroleum placer claims. The Pacific Oil Company of Utah obtained claims from George Morrow, J. Parley White, and Hyrum E. Hayes in Dairy Fork. John Cain of Salt Lake City filed for thirty-five placer claims in an unorganized district of the canyon, and W.H. Henrickson located ten claims near Kyune.



Waiting for the train at Castilla Springs Resort. It is possible--judging from the number of elderly people--that this

was an "Old Folks" outing. Photo George Anderson, courtesy Rell G. Francis.

It was reported that ten million pounds of sugar was processed at the Lehi Sugar factory with 40,000 tons of beets still remaining to be processed. This meant \$200,000 in the pockets of the farmers. There were 666 acres of beets planted in the Spanish Fork area.

Other Events of the Year:

Several arrests were made for selling liquor illegally. The Citizens Party, which had strongly supported the prohibition ordinance, now seemed to be doing an about-face with many favoring the return of the saloons.

Many fine homes were built, notably those of Ephraim Rowe, William E. Stoker, Hans Larsen, and Roger Creer.

Spanish Fork, along with the entire nation, was saddened and shocked by the assassination of William E. McKinley, president of the United States, on September 14.

The M.I.A. Fair was held. William M. Hughes and Miss Kate Jones were winners of the oratorical contests.

Seven hundred students were attending the Brigham Young Academy, quite a number of them from Spanish Fork.

The Reverend Theodore Lee of the Presbyterian Church held regular street meetings.

The new building for the post office was completed.

The infant child of David T. Lewis, a teacher, died of small pox, the first death in Spanish Fork from that disease.

A proposal came from Springville that Spanish Fork join with them in the building of an electric light plant at a cost of \$30,000. However, Spanish Fork city officials felt that a water system was of greater importance.

The Daughters of the Utah Pioneers was organized on April 11.

J.M. (Matt) Thomas was found dead near Price. The coroner's inquest ruled that he committed suicide, but others, including several doctors, said it was possible that he was murdered. His throat was cut and a knife lay beside the body. Thomas was a well-to-do cattleman, and friends said there was no reason why he should have taken his own life.

Missionaries were called to missions through a system which came to be known as Box B.

Mrs. Annie Poulson, wife of Charles E. Poulson, came to Spanish Fork. Mrs. Poulson, a mid-wife, had been trained in and graduated from Dr. Ellis Shipp's School of Obstetrics on March 27, 1897. She lived and worked with

Dr. Shipp in the maternity home for over a year after her graduation. Mrs. Poulson planned to practice mid-wifery in the area.

1902

During the first fifty years of the settlement of Spanish Fork and Utah, a death in a family was an occasion that called for help from friends and neighbors. As soon as possible after the last breath was taken, women from the Relief Society came in to wash and dress the body. Coins, usually 50-cent pieces, were placed on the eyes to keep them closed, and a heavy weight--the Bible was the first choice--was laid upon the abdomen to keep it from swelling. Boards were also placed at the feet. When these tasks were completed, the body was stretched on a board laid between two chairs or carpenter's sawhorses and covered with a sheet. The body remained on the boards until the carpenter had finished making the coffin. Two of the coffin makers in Spanish Fork were Soren Petersen and Erick Hansen.

Since there was no embalming, jars filled with ice were packed around the body. If no ice was available, burial took place the next day following death. Friends attended the body day and night, with teams of two taking turns during the night. These watchers were there to protect the body, refill the bottles with ice, and bathe the hands and face of the corpse at intervals with saltpeter to keep them from growing dark. These services were all performed by kind, loving people with dignity and respect.

Every relief society had its clothing committee which made burial clothing for the deceased. These women were all skillful seamstresses. Four women who served on the clothing committee of Fourth Ward for many years were Christina Petersen, Sarah Swenson, Thorgerda Snell, and Sena Olsen. These women also often helped to prepare the bodies of women and children for burial.

The clothing worn by members of the bereaved family was also considered very important. It was required that all be dressed in black, and it was here again that friends and neighbors often came to the rescue. The clothing was either made, bought, or borrowed. Usually women in mourning wore "widow's weeds," which included a headdress of black crepe which hung down the back to below the waist and had a black veil to cover the face. A black dress, shoes, stockings, and gloves completed the costume. A widower wore a black band on his hat. In later years this band was worn on the sleeve.

The body was kept in the house, either in the parlor or the front hall, until time for the burial. Most funerals in Utah County were held in the home, although a few were held in ward chapels. The coffin was left open during the services.

Grief was shown openly and copiously. There was a great deal of loud sobbing, and some of the ladies usually

fainted. It was believed that public grieving was a means of showing respect for the deceased. Friends also visibly showed their grief and were sincere in their feelings.

Community participation did not end with the funeral. Sometimes after the services, male friends and neighbors hoisted the coffin to their shoulders and carried it to the cemetery. If the cemetery was too far for this, the coffin was placed on a wagon or, in later years, taken by hearses. If possible, a black hearse was used for adults and a white one for children. Often the hearses were pulled by teams of all black or all white horses.

At the cemetery, if it were winter and the ground was frozen, it may have been necessary to build a fire over the grave site and keep it burning all night in order to thaw the ground so that the grave could be dug the next morning. All mourners remained at the grave until it was filled in. Sometimes friends and families threw in the fire shovels of dirt.

This sharing not only of the grief and sorrow of death but also the physical preparations for burial seemed to draw the people closer together and gave them strength to endure the tragedy.

The *Spanish Fork Press* began publication on January 23, 1902, with Andrew Jensen as publisher. The subscription rates were \$1.50, and the office was on the east side of Main Street between Center Street and First North.

The first issue of the Press contained a Spanish Fork City financial report for 1901. Receipts were \$3,782.78 and disbursements were \$3,402.29. The largest receipts came from taxes, \$1,926.75, followed by licenses, \$537.90, and fines, \$548. The city's revenues for 1902 were increased by the issuance of licenses for saloons. An ordinance was passed again permitting the sale of liquor within the city limits. A companion ordinance also passed prohibiting "the playing of cards or dice for money, or at all, in any room occupied as a saloon or billiard hall."

But other forms of liquid were also upon the minds of the citizens of Spanish Fork. Water had been a constant problem since the city was settled fifty years before. Water for culinary uses was often taken from surface wells and ditches with the result that typhoid fever and other diseases were prevalent. Dr. Beatty from the State Board of Health recommended that Spanish Fork establish a water system. Mayor Heber C. Jex, recently elected, responded that considerable thought had already been given to the problem. Manager Bradford of the Lelan Rolling Mill asked the city council to consider piping a large flowing well to the city. Later in the spring Councilman Brockbank investigated the possibility of obtaining water from the springs at the mouth of Spanish Fork Canyon. City officials had had their eyes on the water for quite some time, but money was needed to carry out the project.

Irrigation water was also a problem. Plans were made to make a ditch to the East Bench; however, an additional

about two tons at a load, and some made a trip and a half a day. A Mr. Voorhees was in the process of developing a lithograph mine in Tie Fork and also an Elaterite mine at Soldier Summit. Voorhees bought the Cottage Hotel at Tucker and also an adjoining building occupied by a store and the post office.

Other Events of the Year:

The Spanish Fork Driving Association incorporated for \$5,000 and constructed a race track and athletic field on the John Beck farm south of town. Racing meets were held during the summer.

Roller skating was sponsored at Pack's Pavilion. The Pavilion advertised that it had the finest spring floor in the area, and it was a very popular place for dancing. The City Pavilion was also frequently used for dances and other activities. On November 13 the canvas curtains were removed from the pavilion and the openings filled with lumber.

It was announced that markers identifying graves must be placed in the cemetery. If owners failed to do so, the city would provide the marker and charge it to the owner.

One dollar would buy 18 pounds of sugar.

In January "while Miss Lenore Banks was sitting with her head near the fire, the celluloid combs in her hair caught fire and went up like powder, burning considerable of her hair."

A pickling factory was built west of the Denver & Rio Grande depot. Ann Llewellyn Jones wrote that the cucumbers were put in a large vat with layers of salt and water. Teen-age boys were then paid \$.25 to tromp the cucumbers with their bare feet. After they were thoroughly tromped, the cucumbers were washed and sent to Provo for final processing.

C.R. Larsen informed the board of directors of the Spanish Fork Co-op that a dynamo to generate electric power which would furnish lights sufficient for Main Street, the Co-op buildings, and others could be purchased for \$450. The directors deferred the matter.

1907

Work continued on the Strawberry River project. By January 31 the tunnel was 506 feet long. Fifty men, including officials, worked two shifts.

Bids were also advertised for the machinery to be used in the power plant which would furnish power for the completion of the tunnel. General Electric Company was awarded the contract for the electrical machinery for \$2619, and the Dayton Globe works won the contract for the turbines for \$12,500. The power plant was to be built about four miles east of Spanish Fork at the mouth of Spanish Fork Canyon. This site was chosen because there was a drop of about 120 feet at the junction of the water from the tunnel and the Salem Canal. The cost was estimated to be \$100,000 and it was thought there would

be enough power to distribute to residents in the area. A canal three miles long was necessary to carry the water to the power plant and work was started almost immediately. By June almost a mile of the canal had been completed.

Other Events of the Year:

A gun club was organized with C.M. Hart; J.J. Banks, secretary-treasurer; and Joseph Wren, captain.

Dr. John W. Hagan came to Spanish Fork to practice medicine and formed a partnership with Dr. William E. Warner. Dr. Hagan and his wife and baby formerly lived in Fairview.

The People's Fuel Company was incorporated for \$50,000. It was planned that the plant would have a 1500-ton capacity, and sheds would be built in Payson, Spanish Fork, and Springville.

B.R. Stahmann of Minnesota came to Spanish Fork. A photographer, he planned to erect a studio south of the Oran Lewis store.

In the entire state of Utah 1,275,144 sheep were sheared.

Rumors were being circulated that all stores in Spanish Fork would go on a cash basis with one price instead of one price for cash and another for scrip.

During 1906 there were 151 births in Spanish Fork (69 males and 82 females), and 53 deaths (25 males and 27 females).

The World Drug announced that it had a fine library of books for rent at \$.10 a book.

George E. Anderson, photographer, moved his studio from the Brockbank lot to the old Jex Broom Factory three blocks south of the Co-op.

The new water power washing machine was reported as doing excellent work for Fred Dart.

Complaints continued to be made about the streets and sidewalks. Streets were muddy in wet weather and dusty in dry. Pleas were made to home owners to gravel the walks in front of their homes.

The Jex Lumber Co. established a planing mill.

Mrs. Alex Bankhead, aged colored lady, died at the County Infirmary. She was one of the first settlers of Spanish Fork, having come here in 1851 with the Redd family. She was born October, 1831, in North Carolina and carried the name of Redd until she was married to Alex Bankhead, who came to Utah with the Bankhead family but was later sold to A.O. Smoot. The couple lived in a small adobe house at first East between Second and Third South. They had one son, Billy. Marinda was called "Aunt Rindy." Her husband died in 1902.

The Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company built a line from Spanish Fork to Price.

1908

Many men from Spanish Fork were employed in working on the tunnel and the power plant for the Strawberry Valley project. It was planned at the beginning of the year

that 500 men would be put to work on the project as soon as the weather permitted. Contracts were also to be let for the construction of transmission lines from the power plant at the mouth of Spanish Fork Canyon to the project in Strawberry Valley.

Work was also going forward on the power plant and the canal. A concrete dam seventy feet long and thirty-six feet high was built one and a half miles up the canyon. Water would flow from the dam in an open ditch through a tunnel, through another open ditch, another tunnel, and another ditch to the power plant.

Spanish Fork's first fire department was organized this year. It consisted of a company of twenty men, four men from each ward and four at large. The officers were: C.W. Booth, chief; Clayton Beck, first assistant chief; George H. Ludlow, second assistant chief; David E. Robertson, assistant secretary; William Briggs, steward. Members were Joseph Chapple, David R. Boyack, William W. Booth (mascot), Haswell Tuttle, John H. Thomas, Leo Ludlow, Henry Nelson, Wallace Beagley, Dell Chapple, George Ludlow, Henry Fernstein, Byron Tuttle, Dean Wilcox, Lon Thomas, Alf Warner, Tom Moore, Austin Carter, Joseph Davis, Ralph Higginson, and Dave Boyack.

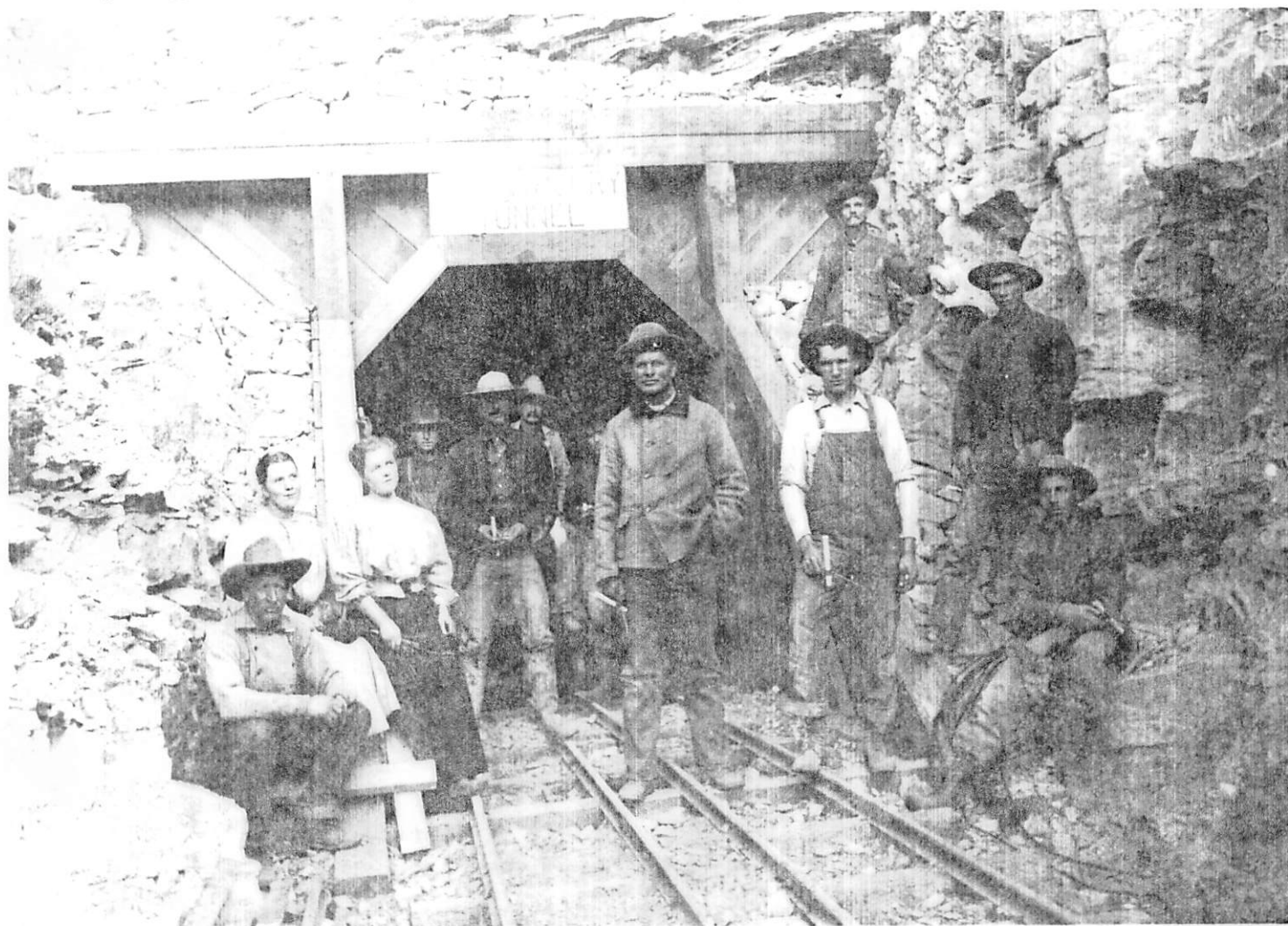
The first motion pictures to be shown on a regular basis were displayed in the Opera House (the old Central Meeting House) by A.L. Stallings and a man named Olsen. They played three nights a week. (Later the Browne Building opposite the Co-op was opened by Stallings. This theater was called the Electric Theater because the pictures were shown by electric light which was manufactured by using a gasoline engine.)

Other Events of the Year:

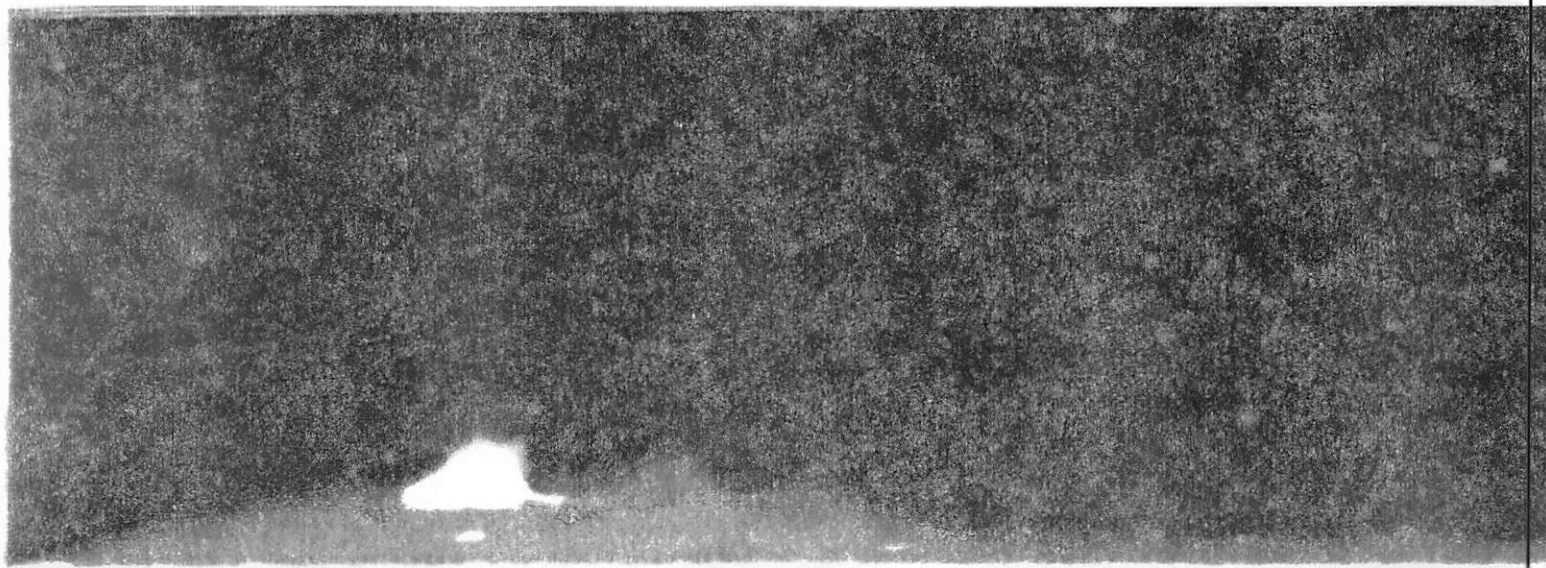
The school board announced that a kindergarten for children four to six years old would run for the summer.

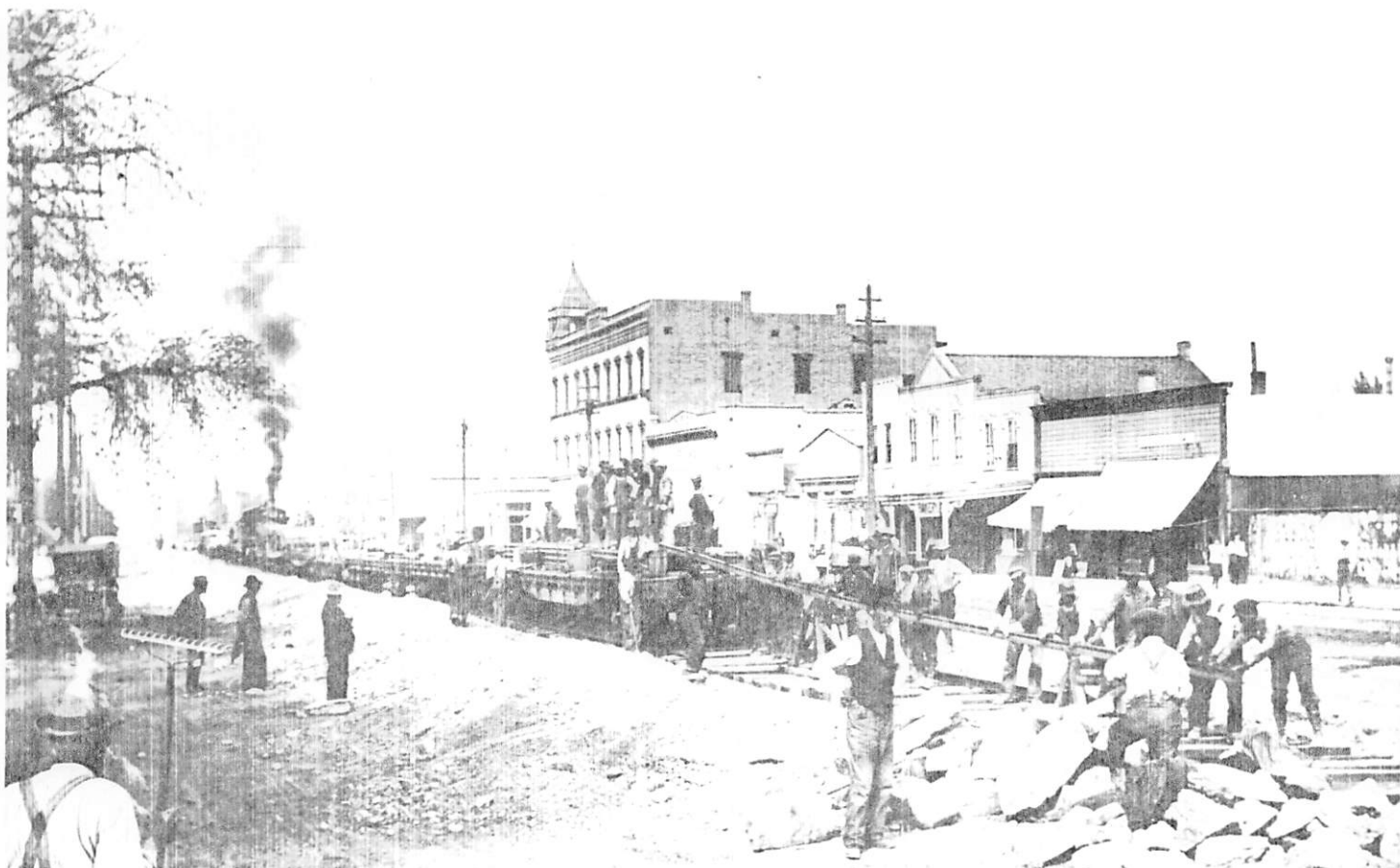
"The Orchards" was the name of a new town to be built at the Mapleton depot. Promises were made to prospective purchasers to have cement sidewalks and graded streets by the spring of 1909. Improvements were to be part of the purchase price. Lots were 50 x 145 feet, and for \$30 a well and pump were guaranteed on each lot.

The race track owned and operated by the Spanish Fork Driving Association continued to be popular. The track was considered one of the best tracks for horse racing in the state. (The track was later sold to the Nebo School District who used it for an athletic field for the high school).



Workers at the entrance to the Strawberry Tunnel, Strawberry Valley.





Above: Laying of the interurban tracks along Main Street. Below: One of the first trains to pass through town. Cars were pulled by a

locomotive until power installation was completed. George E. Anderson photos courtesy of Rell G. Francis.



Robert J. Jex built a blacksmith shop on Fourth South between Main and First East. His father, John B. Jex, had been a blacksmith in Spanish Fork since the time of his arrival here in 1890. John's first shop was on the west side of Main Street between First and Second South. Later he moved his shop to the old Humble blacksmith shop where Robert was to start his business. The elder Jex also had a shop where the first high school was built.



The Robert J. Jex blacksmith shop with Mr. Jex standing in front.

1916

The new sugar factory was completed and ready to process the first beets in the fall of 1916. The Nampa factory machinery, which had had a capacity of 750 tons a day, had been installed in Leland and the capacity increased to 1000 tons. The old cutting station at Leland was moved to Pleasant Grove. In this first season of the refinery, 476 growers planted 5,315 acres of beets with a total yield of 45,733 tons of beets and 99,780 hundred weight of sugar. The factory handled more than three times the amount of beets formerly handled by the slicing station, and it was said to be the largest refinery owned by Utah-Idaho Sugar Company.

It was indeed a time for celebration, and Spanish Fork did just that on September 4 and 5 along with nearby communities. Governor Spry and officials of the Utah-Idaho Sugar were the principal speakers at the program with J. Preston Creer as master of ceremonies. Miss Eva Lewis and William D. Holt also provided a violin duet. In the grand parade the prize for the best decorated baby carriage went to Mrs. Fred Ludlow, and the second prize went to the carriage and children of Mrs. George Skinner, representing the "finding of Moses." There were also a children's picture show, games, baseball games,

firemen's exhibitions, and dances both nights at the Auditorium.

But the citizens of Spanish Fork were also concerned with less happy events. Thus far they had remained virtually untouched by the war in Europe, but now there occurred some incidents that would be omens of the future. Pancho Villa, ambitious bandit of Mexico, became angered when the United States supported Carranza as president of Mexico instead of himself. Villa developed a hatred for "gringos," feeling he had been deceived. On March 19, 1916, he led 400 men on a raid on Columbus, New Mexico, killing 17 people and partially burning the town. President Wilson ordered a force into Mexico to capture Villa. Carranza had been expected to cooperate in the pursuit of Villa, but instead he notified General Pershing on June 17 that if there were any further invasions by American troops, they would be resisted by arms. The American troops retreated to the border.

The United States issued a call for volunteers in the National Guard for service on the Mexican border. On June 22, 1916, Mayor Lars Nielsen of Spanish Fork asked for ten volunteers. The following responded to the call: Rex A. Roach, Lawrence S. Arnold, Eric C. Hanson, Orson H. Hill, Roger Jones, George Mortenson, Warren D. Boyack, Reed Thomas, Ordell E. Crawford, Francis R. Hamilton. Boyack did not pass the physical, but the others were sent to the border. Rex Roach was the bugler and Roger Jones the cook. Troop F spent nearly a year on the Mexican border, returning March 8, 1917. Reed Thomas, who joined the navy, did not return with them. They were camped at Nogales, Mexico, and in August they wrote that they had yet to hear the first shot fired. T. Lyman Halvorsen, a member of the Utah Battery for two and one-half years, wrote also that the Utah Cavalry was camped some distance from him and that there were several boys from Spanish Fork and Salem in the Cavalry.

In August it was announced that army men would train citizen soldiers at Fort Douglas at a citizen's military camp August 21 to September 16. Dr. Joseph Hughes and Bishop Robert W. McKell were appointed as recruiting officers at Spanish Fork.

In October it was learned that the boys who volunteered for service on the border in June would return home soon. Many citizens had signed pledges to contribute \$1 a month to help the boys and their families. However, many had failed to pay and were urged to do so.

In May, Taylor Brothers of Provo announced the opening of a branch store in the building formerly occupied by the Young Men's Co-op. Taylors Brothers had been in business in Provo for the past 50 years and carried a quality line of furniture. Albert Dixon became the manager of the Spanish Fork store. It is said that he recommended the use of chewing tobacco to hide scratches in furniture. However, Taylors was not the first furniture store in town. Excel Furniture had been

Farmers complained that Utah-Idaho Sugar Company's profit was unfair. The company's profit was said to be \$6 to \$15 a ton; the farmer's profit was \$.39½. Farmers were promised \$7 a ton in 1917--one dollar more for beets until Christmas. Farmers were paid \$5.50 in 1916.

It was announced that Nebo School District led the world in good school attendance--99 percent of its total school population being enrolled in school. There were 5,000 students in school in Nebo District, 12 percent--or 540-- of them in the consolidated high schools. This was more than twice as many students in high schools than in any other district of this size.

In October a franchise was granted to the Utah Valley Gas and Coke Company. The company announced that work on gas mains would begin soon and that people would shortly have gas installed in their homes. Gas ranges appeared on display in stores.

The High Line Canal, part of the Strawberry River Project, was completed, and on April 7, 1916, the Strawberry High Line Canal Company Water Users' Association assumed operation and maintenance of the unit.

1917

In 1917 Spanish Fork became actively involved in the conflict in Europe which had started in 1914. In March, a month before formal declaration of war was made by the United States, volunteers were called for service in the National Guard. Spanish Fork was asked to furnish ten men. If volunteers were not available, drafting would be resorted to.

In April *The Spanish Fork Press* published an honor roll of those who had enlisted. Those named were: Troop F--Lawrence F. Arnold, Francis R. Hamilton, Rex A. Roach, Eric Hansen, Roger Jones, George Mortenson, Orson H. Hill, Henry B. Mortenson. It will be noted that these are the same men who had served on the Mexican border last year. The volunteer soldiers had arrived home in March and a large reception was held in their honor; however, they were not mustered out since war with Germany seemed almost certain. Navy--Andrew F. Engberg, Chief Pharmacist Mate, Coast Defense Reserve; Reed Thomas, Holland Houtz, Paul M. Sorenson, Marion Bellows, Stewart Dart, Milton E. Huff, Walter J. Larsen, Francis R. Gill, Francis Thomas, and Morris Hales. In May Frank Stebbins and Charles Frost enlisted in the Navy. June 5 was declared registration day, and all males between the ages of 21 and 31 were required to register for service.

In July Fred Hockett and Howard Strang were at Goat Island Training Station in San Francisco, and the *Press* added the following names to the honor roll: Troop F -- Bernell Jensen; Aviation Corps -- Ed Fernstein, Wallace Boyack; Army -- Elmer F. Nielsen; Navy -- Thomas Corbett, Howard Strang, Fred Hockett, Frank Stebbins,

Charles G. Frost, Francis Homas, Francis R. Gill, and Walter J. Larsen.

On July 20 the first drawing was made for the draft in Washington, D.C. Several Spanish Fork men were drawn and two enlisted--Dr. Heber Brockbank in the medical corps and Tom V. Maloney. In September twelve more men left for training.

Four Spanish Fork boys were selected to receive radio training at Harvard. They were Francis J. Thomas, Milton E. Huff, F. Stewart Dart, and Marion Bellows.

Other Events of the Year:

The government conducted an experimental use of automobiles at the Strawberry River Project. Two autos were used in 1917 and two more were ordered for hydrographic and inspection work at a cost of approximately 8.4 cents per mile. From 50 to 100 miles per day could be covered, which contrasted with the 25 miles per day with a team at a cost of 18 cents per mile. The reservoir was also proving to be popular with sportsmen, and cabins were being built for recreational purposes. The Strawberry Project was now considered to be completed.

The directors and representatives of Utah County dance halls met and set up a uniform code regulating dancing. Some of the provisions were as follows:

1. Arms should not be in a position that suggested hugging, nor could both arms be placed around partner. Knees of one partner must not be between knees of the other partner. Close dancing not permitted.
2. No suggestive hip or shoulder movements, no twisting, shoulder heaving, etc.
3. Freakish, vulgar or awkward steps not permitted. No pivoting, hopping, or running or suggestive slow dancing. Dances should be standardized and danced as announced.
4. No "moonlight" dances, where the lights are dimmed.
5. Variations in steps permitted as long as in good taste.
6. No one allowed to enter the hall under the influence of liquor.
7. No unchaperoned girls under fifteen permitted to enter hall.
8. Twelve o'clock should be the standard hour for closing.
9. No use or possession of liquor on premises.

February 3 was declared as National Thrift Day. "Stop spending!" was the cry of the bankers. "Save, conserve, economize, live within your means." Americans were making--and spending--money these "fat" days.

Benjamin held a big sparrow killing. Five thousand birds were destroyed in one day.

It was announced by A.T. Money and M.D. Warner, representatives of Farmers Co-op, that a flour mill would be built on Main Street. The mill would have a capacity of fifty barrels a day.

The Utah-Idaho Sugar Company undertook to build an eight-mile railroad to Lake Shore for the purpose of

...ing beets. Because of complaints from farmers over the price, the company agreed to split profits above \$1 a bag with the farmers, who demanded \$10 for beets in 1918.

Two cases of small pox were reported, and two Spanish Fork citizens died of typhoid fever.

A.R. Creer, Charles C. Creer, and R.W. Creer bought the Spanish Fork Cannery at a sheriff's sale. The cannery began operation in August.

The epic movie, *Birth of a Nation*, played at the opera house for two days. Tickets were \$.25 to one dollar. The film, *Ramona*, also played at the opera house, and Clara Campbell Young appeared in *The Rise of Susan* at the Angelus Theater.

Discussion was held on the possibility of getting a Carnegie Library in Spanish Fork.

A large reception was held in March in honor of the volunteer soldiers who arrived home after serving on the Mexican border.

A bond election was held in the county for the construction of a concrete highway; however, very little interest was shown in the election, and it failed to pass. In the county 1798 voted for the issue, 1806 against. In Spanish Fork, 111 were for the highway and 247 against. Although this bond issue for good roads had been defeated, there were many who refused to give up the idea. Five-hundred taxpayers petitioned for a road tax, asking the county commissioners to make a special levy in the fall of approximately \$100,000 for a concrete road. Later, the county commissioners voted a two-mill special tax in order to build a few miles of hard-surface highway to test materials and methods. Two pieces of highway were selected, one in American Fork and one at Payson. The one at Payson was along F street on the hill that led to the high school.

Spanish Fork citizens made an all-out effort to assist in the war. They purchased \$79,000 in Liberty Bonds, and their savings certificates were placed on sale in December. Earlier in the year Spanish Fork raised \$2,534 for the Red Cross and \$19,500 for Liberty Bonds. School children had been encouraged to plant home gardens in the spring and early summer. July 1 had also been set aside as national Food Saving Day.

In May a big Chautauqua tent was erected on the northeast corner of the park. Programs were scheduled for the week from June 10 to June 16 consisting of musicals, oratoricals, and entertainments. Among the programs presented were James Goddard, bass baritone; *Chimes of Normandy*, a comic opera; and a Hawkins Nature Lecture. (Note: Thorndike's Dictionary defines "Chautauqua" as an "assembly for education and entertainment of adults by lectures, concerts, etc., held on several days.")

John E. Booth bought the World Drug.

There were 197 students enrolled at the Spanish Fork High School at the beginning of the school year in

September.

The Commercial Club undertook to build a gravel sidewalk to the sugar factory. The club also discussed proposals to pave Main Street.

The city council cut the price of electricity from \$.10 a kilowatt to \$.08.

Letter postage was raised to three cents.

The Hughes Hospital was moved to a location on First West and Center Street.

1918

The year, 1918, was a year of sadness and anxiety for the people of Spanish Fork. Men continued to enlist in the services or were called in the second draft in February. The first army men to go to France were Guy Thomas and Wallace Boyack. First Lt. Ed. L. Fernstein, Signal Reserve Corps, Aviation Section, was also overseas. He had been with Co. B, Third Balloon Squadron, at Fort Omaha, Nebraska. In March the Utah Battery 145th Field Artillery asked for 150 men for overseas duty, and in June seventeen more men left Spanish Fork for camp, in August nearly fifty were taken for training.

There was pride in Spanish Fork over the large number of men serving their country and a great deal of patriotic fervor, but this elation was subdued when the casualty reports began arriving. On July 29 Howard J. Hales, the first Utah County man to be called for service in the national army, was killed in a train accident in France on his way to the front. He and a large number of soldiers were standing on the main line at a little town when another train crashed into them, killing 19 and badly injuring 56 others. In October Charles J. Stewart died of wounds received in action, and Hans Hansen and R. Edward Durrant died of pneumonia in France. Lester Andrus was reported as dead, but later the report was found to be erroneous. He had been so seriously wounded that he was thought to be dead and was loaded on a cart that was picking up dead bodies. An orderly heard him groan and took him to the hospital.

The lives of the citizens of Spanish Fork were affected in other ways by the war. In January a tax man from the Internal Revenue came to town to help people fill out their tax returns. Generally, a single person whose net income was \$1000 or over and a married couple with a net income \$2000 or over were subject to the tax. Seventy-five people in Spanish Fork had to pay an income tax in 1918.

Food had to be conserved. The United States Food Administration issued an order in March that buyers of white flour must take a like amount of wheat substitutes such as corn, oats, potatoes, beans, etc., and only three flavors of ice cream were to be offered--chocolate, strawberry, and vanilla - with all ice cream vendors in the state participating in the flavor ban. The sale of sugar was limited to two pounds per month per household.

On September 12 another registration day was held, although the war was to end soon, and all men between

1919

Nineteen Hundred and Nineteen was a time for recovery for Spanish Forkers as well as the rest of the nation--recovery from the World War and the influenza epidemic. The flu epidemic had waned somewhat by the first of the new year, although there were sporadic outbreaks until spring--there were still seventeen homes under quarantine in March in Spanish Fork--and there were fears that the number of cases might be increasing. On January 2 the schools re-opened after being closed since October 10, 1918, and the churches resumed services.

The men in the service began to return home, and on July 24 and 25 a celebration was held to welcome them and honor them. There were parades, patriotic programs, sports, band concerts, dances and fireworks. But for some there was no celebration. These were the families of the

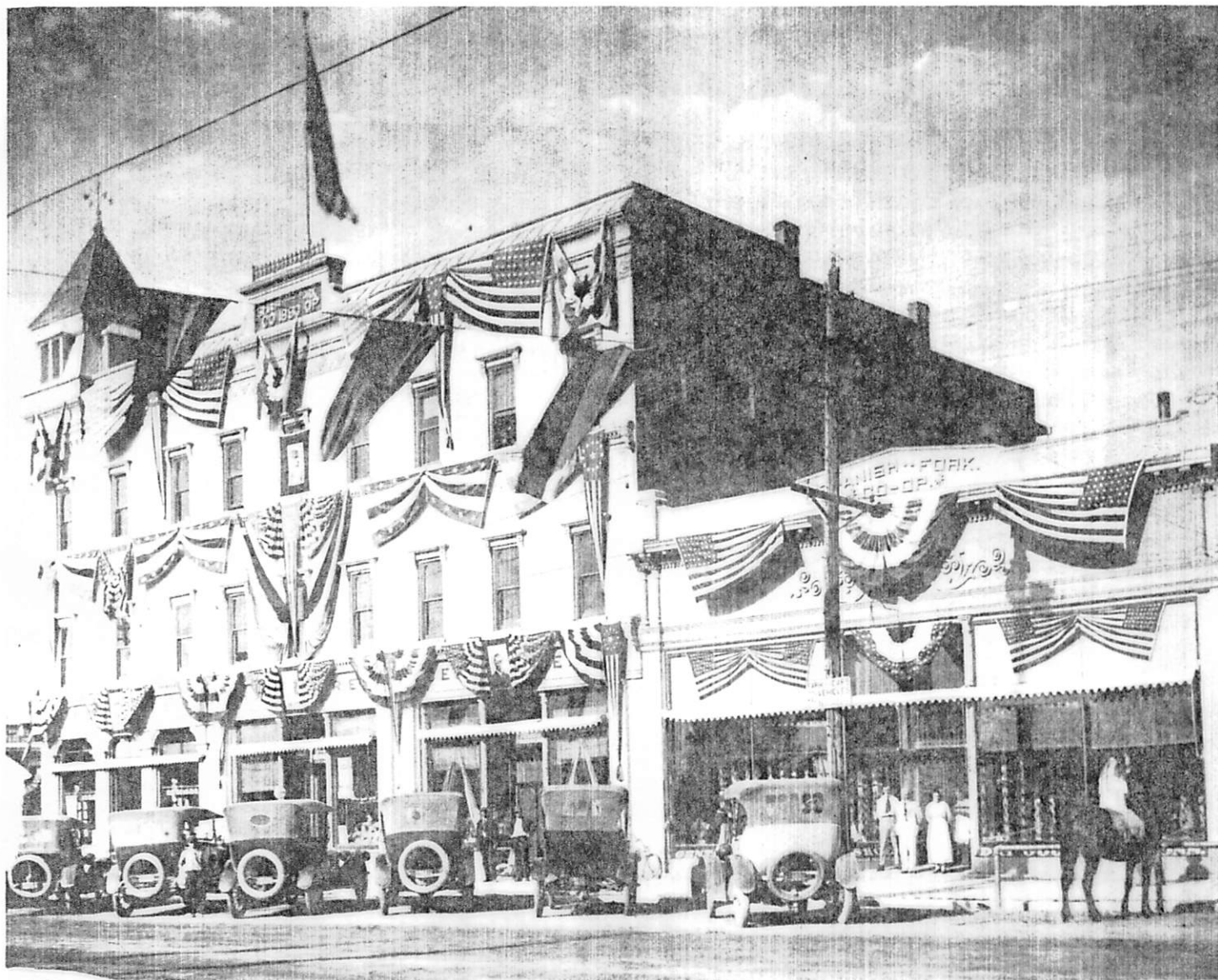
men who did not return. The Honor Roll page in the Memorial Building lists the following as having lost their lives in World War I: George E. Anderson, Horace R. Argyle, Edward Durrant, Howard J. Hales, Hans Hansen, Marion Hatch, Henry Kramer, Lars Lester Larson, George L. Moore, Charles J. Stewart, Arthur P. Thomas, Alonzo P. Thomas, Peter L. Abidlskov, Bernell Jensen, Rawlins S. Hughes, and Lester S. Andrus.

At last, Spanish Fork streets were to be permanently freed of mud and dust. A bond issue for paving Main Street was awarded to Watas and Samuels of Salt Lake City. The cost of the project was estimated at \$110,000.

However, taxpayers defeated another bond issue, a bond issue to improve the schools, although it was pointed out that repairs and additions as well as new buildings were badly needed in the district.

Other Events of the Year:

Thomas M. Holt, manager of the Spanish Fork Co-op,



The Spanish Fork Co-op, decorated to celebrate the homecoming of the soldiers and sailors in 1919. Note the pictures of President Woodrow Wilson and General John Pershing displayed on the

front of the building. Also note the number of automobiles compared to the numerous buggies shown in earlier street scenes.